

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0270

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LU
SUBJ: US/EC RELATIONS

REF: LUXEMBOURG 267

1. IN CONVERSATION ON APRIL 27, MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL
PIERRE WURTH TOLD DCM THAT IF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS
EVENTUALLY ADOPTED PROCEDURE FOR US/EC CONSULTATIONS
DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1 OF REFTEL, HE HOPED THAT THE
US WOULD QUICKLY AGREE TO GIVE IT A CHANCE TO WORK.
WURTH SAID THAT HE COULD NOT IMAGINE A BETTER PROCEDURE
FOR US/EC CONSULTATIONS GIVEN THE EC'S AVERSION TO
INSTITUTIONALIZED TIES. WHAT COUNTS IS POLITICAL WILL
NOT STRUCTURE AND THE SUGGESTED PROCEDURE GIVES THE
US "CONSIDERABLE LEVERAGE" OVER THE WORKINGS OF THE EC

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SINCE IT ADMITS THAT ONE MEMBER STATE CAN BLOCK

POLITICAL COOPERATION IF IT DECIDES THAT THE US OBJECTIONS TO THE FORM OR SUBSTANCE OF EC INITIATIVES ARE WELL FOUNDED. THE EC RULE OF UNANIMITY WOULD ALLOW THE US TO PERSUADE ONE STATE TO VETO EC POLITICAL COOPERATION, WHICH GIVES THE US A ROLE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THAT OF AN EC MEMBER. IT WOULD BE REGRETABLE, WURTH ADDED, IF THE US OVERLOOKS THE SUBSTANTIVE ADVANTAGES OF THIS PROCEDURE BECAUSE OF AN INSISTANCE ON A FORMALIZED PROCEDURE. IF THE US INSISTS ON INSTITUTIONALIZED CONSULTATIONS, WURTH PREDICTED A HALT IN CONSTRUCTIVE POLITICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND EC.

2. IN STRESSING A POINT MADE BY THORN IN THE REFTEL, WURTH SAID THAT THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS IN GYMNICH HAD BEGUN THINKING TENTATIVELY OF ISSUES WHICH MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE SUBJECT OF EC REQUESTS FOR RECIPROCAL CONSULTATIONS FROM THE US.

3. WURTH ALSO COMMENTED THAT, CONTRARY TO SOME ANALYSES, HE BELIEVES THAT THE PERIOD OF FRENCH EC PRESIDENCY COULD BE POSITIVE FOR US/EC RELATIONS. FRANCE IS INCREASINGLY WORRIED ABOUT ITS ISOLATION WHENVER IT COMES TO THE QUESTION OF US/EC RELATIONS. WITH A NEW GOVERNMENT IN PARIS, WURTH SAID THAT FRANCE AS EC PRESIDENT COULD WELL TOLERATE A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE US/EC RELATIONSHIP. WURTH OBSERVED THAT THE FRENCH EC PRESIDENCY MIGHT BE THE IDEAL TIME FOR FACE-SAVING COMPROMISES WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR BETTERMENT IN THE CONDUCT OF US/EC RELATIONS. HE ADVISED THE US NOT TO FORECLOSE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE FRENCH ATTITUDE IN THE LAST HALF OF 1974, AND HE AFFIRMED THAT THE GOL AND OTHERS WOULD WORK EXCEPTIONALLY HARD TO BRING THIS ABOUT. FARKAS

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